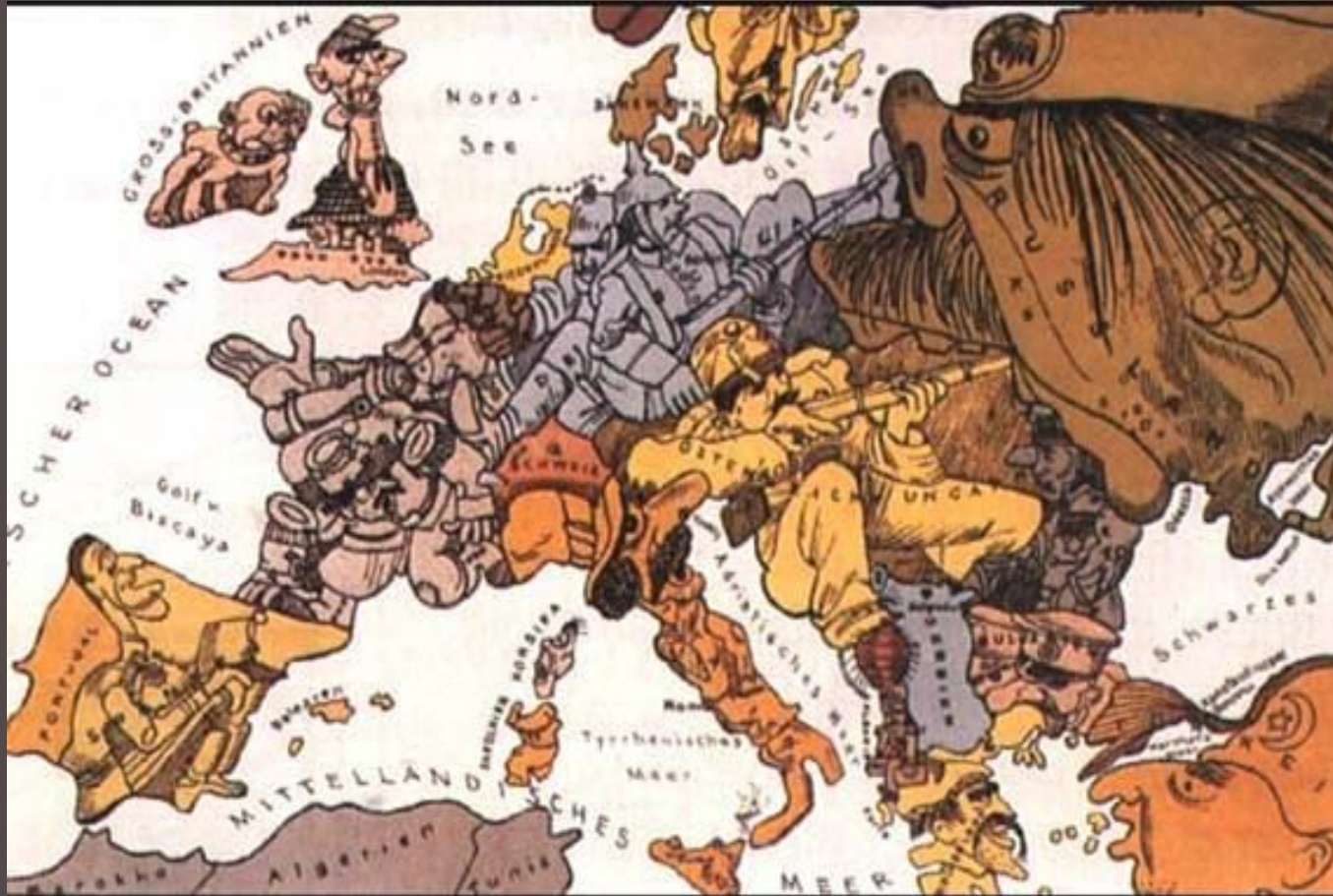


WORLD WAR ONE GUIDED READING ACTIVITY



The War, It's Causes,
and It's
Consequences...

THE M.A.I.N. CAUSES OF WORLD WAR I

M.A.I.N. is an acronym, and each of the letters in the term refer to one of the most important reasons that World War I started:

- M – Militarism
- A – Alliance Systems
- I – Imperialism (or Colonialism...)
- N - Nationality

MILITARISM

- Nations in Europe were engaged in what amounted to an arms race – each nation attempted to build up it's military strength to absurd levels – hoping to always negotiate from a position of strength. By the year 1900, the most powerful nations in Europe all considered military preparedness priority number one!



THE ALLIANCE SYSTEMS

- Nations in Europe had divided up into two major military alliances during the early 1900s: The Triple Entente, and the Triple Alliance. Although both alliances were portrayed as defense alliances – meaning, they only went into effect if a member nation were attacked – the alliances gave every nation confidence that they could push the envelope and posture towards conflict.



TRIPLE ENTENTE

The Triple Entente was an alliance between:

- England
- France
- Russia
- In 1917, when the United States entered into World War I, we would join this side!



TRIPLE ALLIANCE

The Triple Alliance was an alliance in Europe between these three nations:

- Germany
- The Austro-Hungarian Empire
- Italy

When the war started, these nations were known as the Central Powers. Italy quit the alliance – and switched sides... Both the Ottoman Empire and Romania joined the Central Powers.



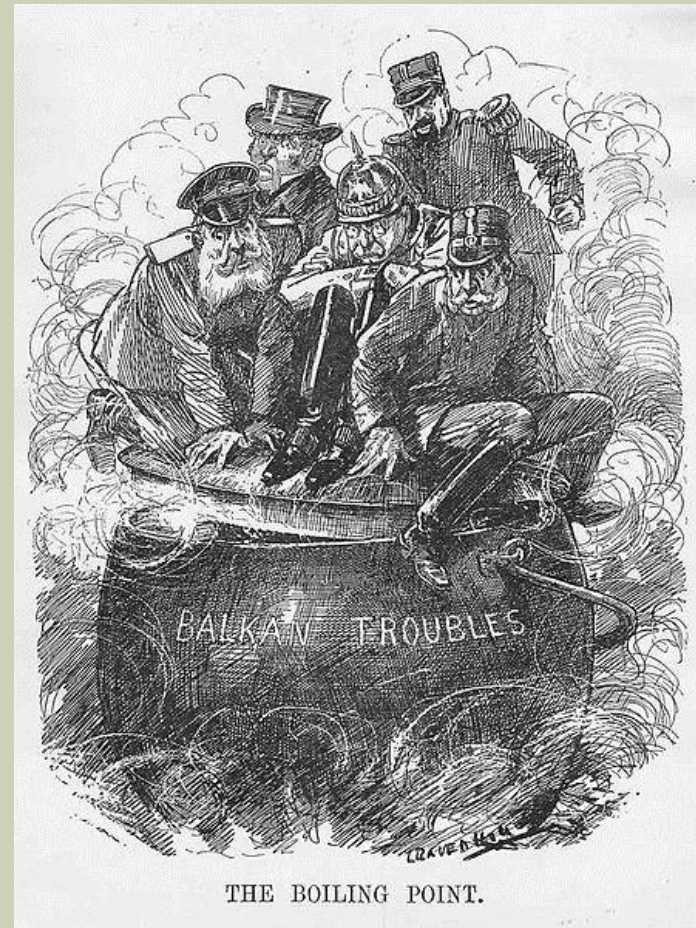


NATIONALISM

Nationalism is almost always considered a good thing in American society today. It reminds us of the pride we take in our national heritage, and helps to promote patriotism and civic pride. But when nationalism exists in places which do not have their own governments, it can lead to more negative results: like warfare!

NATIONALISM IN THE BALKAN PENINSULA, 1900S

On the Balkan Peninsula, where Greece, Macedonia, and a host of other nations peacefully coexist today, there was once enormous discontent from people who were unable to rule themselves. These nations, which were ruled over either by Austria-Hungary or by the Ottoman Empire, wanted self-determination. And, they were willing to fight for their rights.



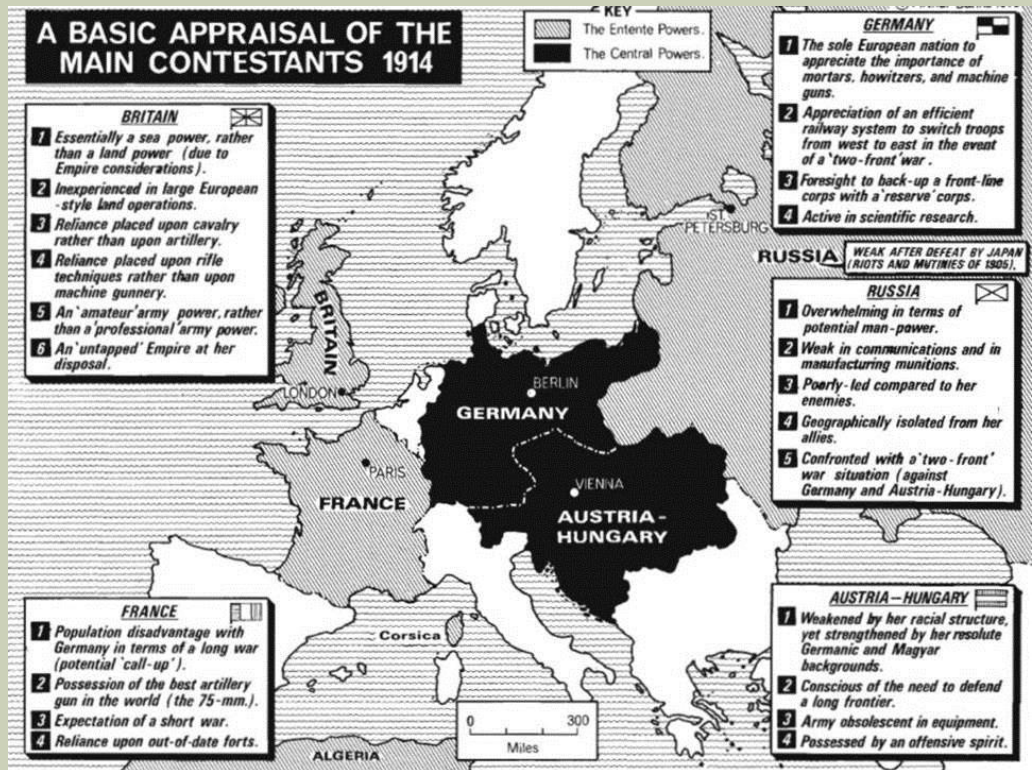
GAVRILO PRINCIPS OF THE BLACK HAND

In 1914, a Serbian nationalist named Gavrilo Princip, who was a member of the terrorist organization “The Black Hand,” lobbed a bomb into the carriage of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary. Ferdinand and his wife were killed. Austrians, outraged that the heir to the throne had been murdered, posted an impossible list of demands for the Serbian people to follow. They threatened war otherwise. This was the spark that set off the war.



A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS...

- 1. Austria-Hungary invaded Serbia.
- 2. Russia declared war on Austria-Hungary. (Secret Alliance with Serbia.)
- 3. Germany declared war on Russia. (Triple Alliance)
- 4. France declared war on Germany. (Triple Entente)
- 5. England declared war on Germany. (Triple Entente)
- 6. Italy – divided – begins to fight France but then quits the war – only to later support the Allies...



WOODROW WILSON AND NEUTRALITY

- When war broke out in Europe, Woodrow Wilson was decidedly neutral! He advised Americans to stay neutral in mind as well as in action. Knowing that Americans had no consensus about the war – this was especially so in 1914 – Wilson advised reflection and neutrality. When he ran for re-election in 1916, his campaign slogan was “He Kept Us Out of War!”



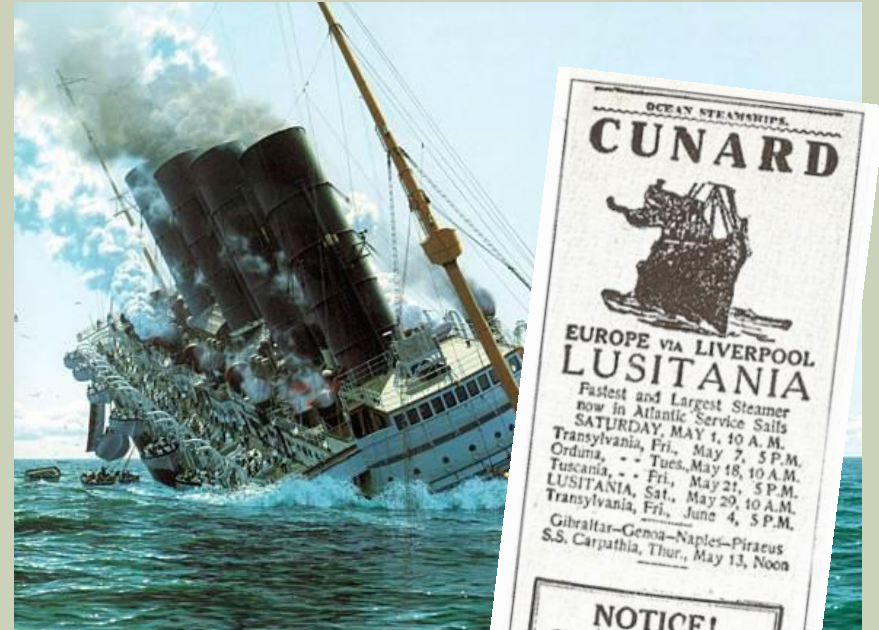
THE AMERICAN RESPONSE

- **German-Americans:** Were sympathetic to Germany, as one might expect, but still largely loyal to the United States of America.
- **Irish-Americans:** The hatred of the Irish for the British is difficult to understate at this moment in history; they tended to support the Central Powers if only because “the enemy of my enemy is my friend.”
- **Historic Ties to England:** Americans shared language, customs, traditions, and political institutions with England; our ties to Britain encouraged us to support their war effort.
- **Women’s Peace Party:** Women like Jane Addams were opposed to the war, and wanted for Americans to stay out! Labor activists like Eugene V. Debs also took this line – he ended up in jail!



THE HMS *LUSITANIA*

- On May 7, 1915, the HMS *Lusitania* was torpedoed and sunk off the coast of Ireland, killing thousands of passengers, including over 120 Americans. Since the ship was officially a passenger liner, Americans were outraged that it had been targeted by German U-boats. Germany, however, was certain that the ship was transporting weapons to the English, and had taken out advertisements to make it known that the ship would be a target.



THE SUSSEX PLEDGE

Americans threatened to go to war with Germany if the unrestricted submarine warfare continued, and almost entered the war when a German U-boat sank the ferry boat *Sussex* in the English Channel; however, when the Germans pledged to refrain from sinking passenger vessels, the US backed down. In 1917, though, the Germans would break the *Sussex* Pledge.



THE ZIMMERMANN TELEGRAM

In what proved to be one of the least intelligent moves of the entire war, Germany sent a telegram to Mexico, encouraging that nation to attack the United States. The hope was, that if the United States was occupied by a war in North America, they would not be able to participate in World War I in Europe.



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SOME PROMISE!

April 1911

WILSON ASKS CONGRESS TO DECLARE WAR ON GERMANY

After the sinking of the *Lusitania*, the breaking of the *Sussex* Pledge, and the interception of the Zimmermann Telegram – all in quick succession – the United States was moved towards a declaration of war with Germany. In April of 1917, the war was officially on for the United States.



THE WAR INDUSTRY BOARD

- The War Industries Board was created in 1917 in order to coordinate the manufacturing of war materials. During times of war, converting the economy to better produce the military equipment which soldiers need in order to win the war is a large task. The War Industries Board helped to make this happen!



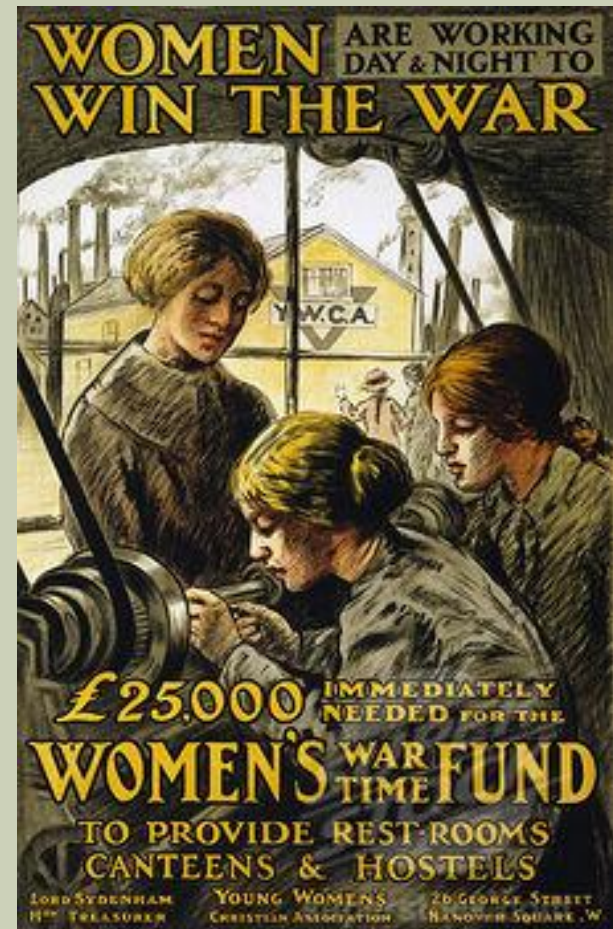
THE NATIONAL WAR LABOR BOARD

The National War Labor Board was created in order to prevent any work stoppages during World War I. In general, all labor union organizations agreed not to go on strike while the war was on. They did not want to be responsible for American soldiers finding themselves in a difficult situation – without supplies. The NWLB sided strongly with working people during the war, establishing higher wages, the eight hours working day, the right to unionize, and rights to collective bargaining.



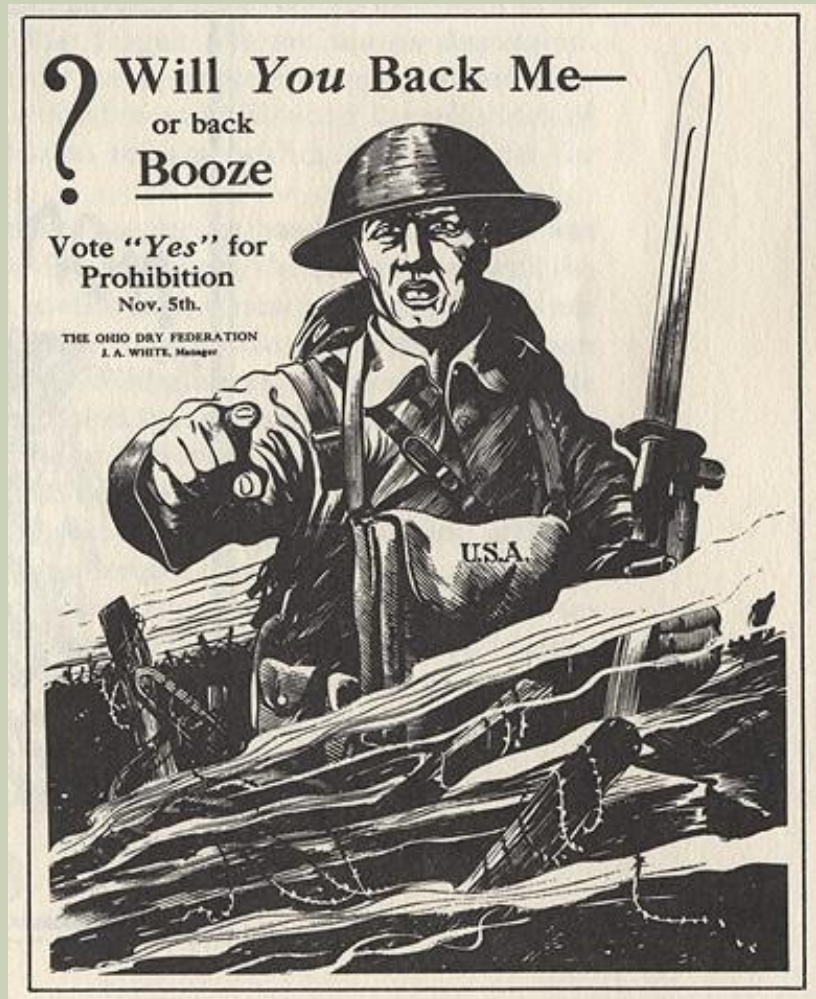
WOMEN WORK TO WIN THE WAR

During World War I, women joined the work force in large numbers for the first time, as well. Millions of women took on jobs that were slightly outside traditional gender roles: working in factories, for railroads, as police officers, or in the naval shipyards. Most of the gains were short lived, however, since most women were forced to leave their posts when the war came to an end.



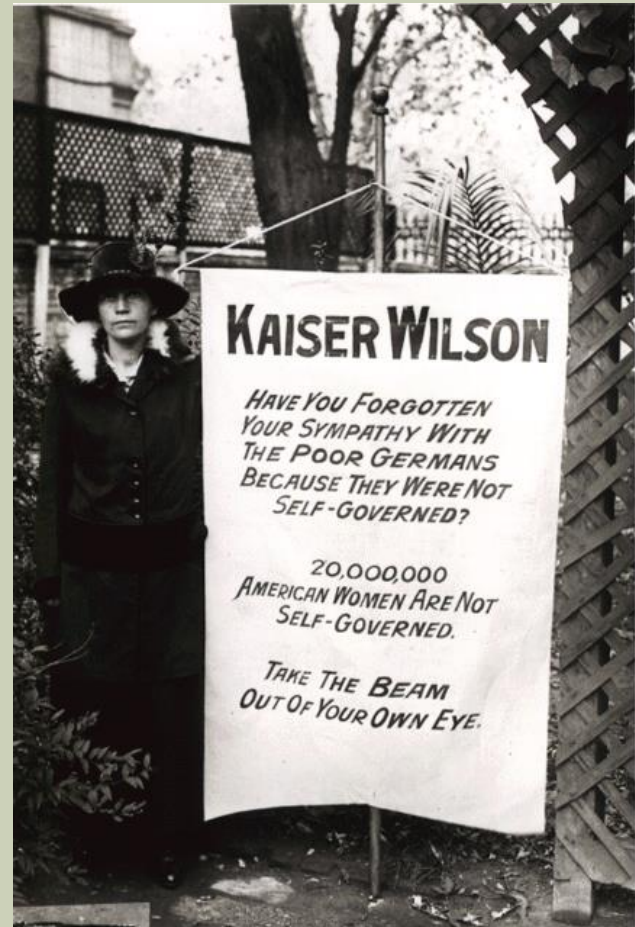
18TH AMENDMENT

During World War I, the movement towards Prohibition really picked up steam. Arguing that (a) the soldiers needed all of the grain that American could produce and (b) that no man should be drinking beer at home while millions of American soldiers risked their life for the freedom of our nation and others like it, the temperance union crusaders had gotten the 18th Amendment ratified by the end of 1918.



19TH AMENDMENT

Women who had made great sacrifices during the Great War through their work and their efforts to organize the supply of American soldiers abroad were rewarded one year after the war by gaining suffrage rights. Carrie Chapman Catt, leader of the National American Woman's Suffrage Association, had planned it this way! By supporting the war effort of Woodrow Wilson, she hoped that Wilson would support her groups demands for woman's suffrage. The 19th Amendment was ratified in 1919.





THE GREAT MIGRATION

During World War I, African-Americans left their homes in the Deep South in order to take higher paying jobs in the Northern manufacturing cities. Detroit, St. Louis, New York, Cleveland, and Chicago all offered better jobs and better living conditions than most parts of the South. Thousands of African-Americans participated in the "Great Migration."

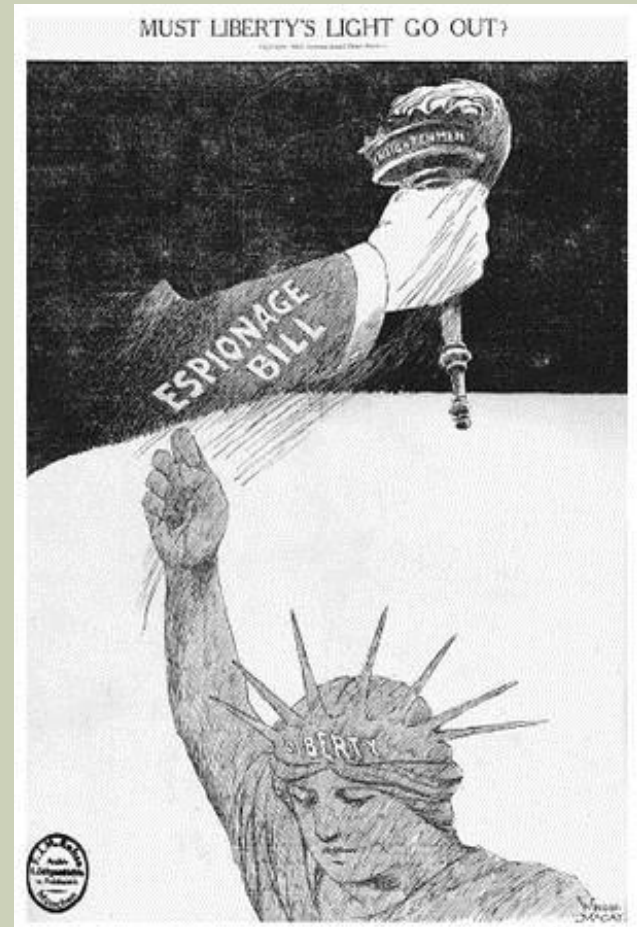
THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

The United States used propaganda in order to keep everyone informed of what was going on in Europe and what expectations were for how a good citizen could support the war effort. The Committee on Public Information, led by George Creel – produced propaganda posters and hired “four-minute men” to give speeches in favor of the war, the draft, and the continued support of working people.



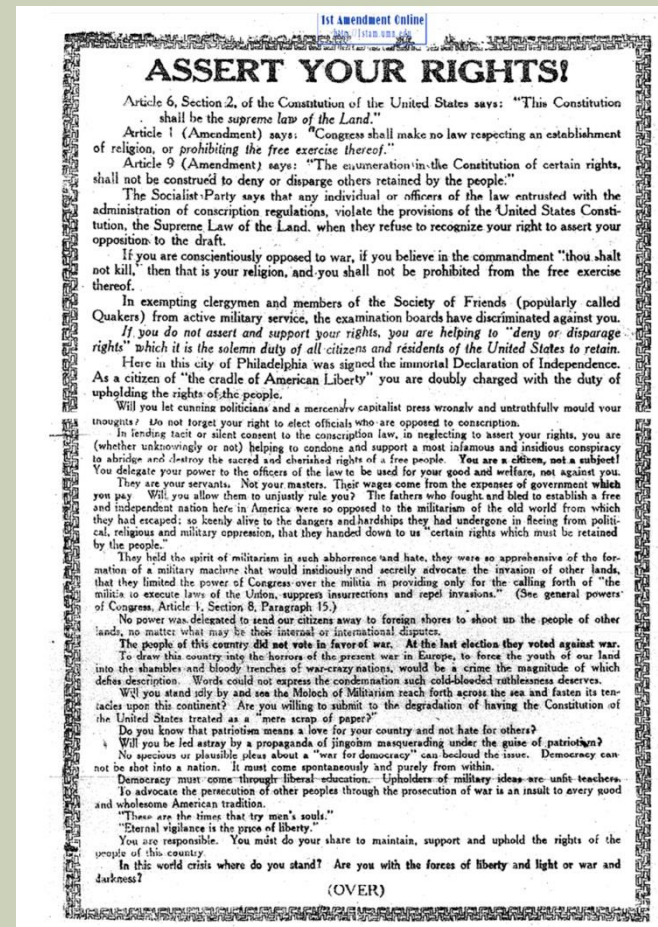
THE ESPIONAGE ACT – THE ARREST OF EUGENE V. DEBS FOR SEDITION

The Freedom of Speech which Americans enjoy thanks to the First Amendment to our Constitution in the Bill of Rights was threatened by a number of laws during the Great War. The Espionage Act and the Sedition Act were two examples of such laws. When union leaders and pacifists spoke out against the war, they were often arrested – as Eugene V. Debs was, for breaking the Sedition Act in 1918.



SCHENCK V. UNITED STATES (1919)

In *Schenck V. United States* (1919) the Supreme Court ruled that mailing pamphlets which discouraged men from registering for the draft and encouraging them to write letters of protest was against the law. The Supreme Court ruled that criticizing the government in this case was not a protected form of speech because it might create a “clear and present danger.”



ABRAMS V. UNITED STATES (1919)

Jacob Abrams had criticized the government of the United States for participating in World War I and for sending troops into Russia to overthrow the fledgling Bolshevik Revolution there in 1918. Oliver Wendell Holmes of the Supreme Court remarked: “When a nation is at war, many things that might be said in time of peace are such a hindrance to its effort that their utterance will not be endured.”

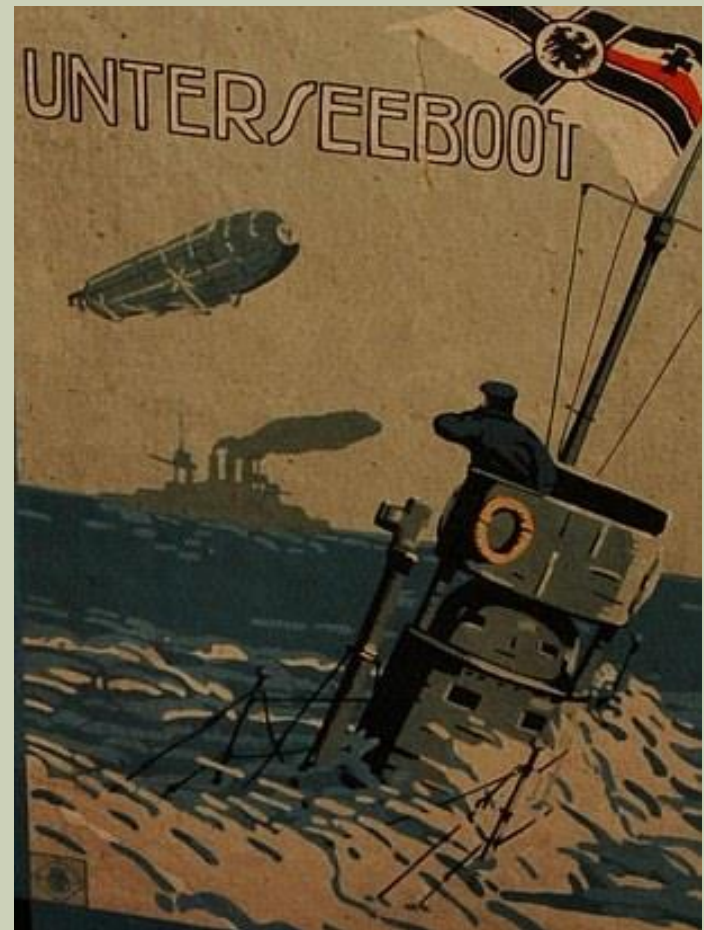


AFRICAN-AMERICANS IN WORLD WAR I

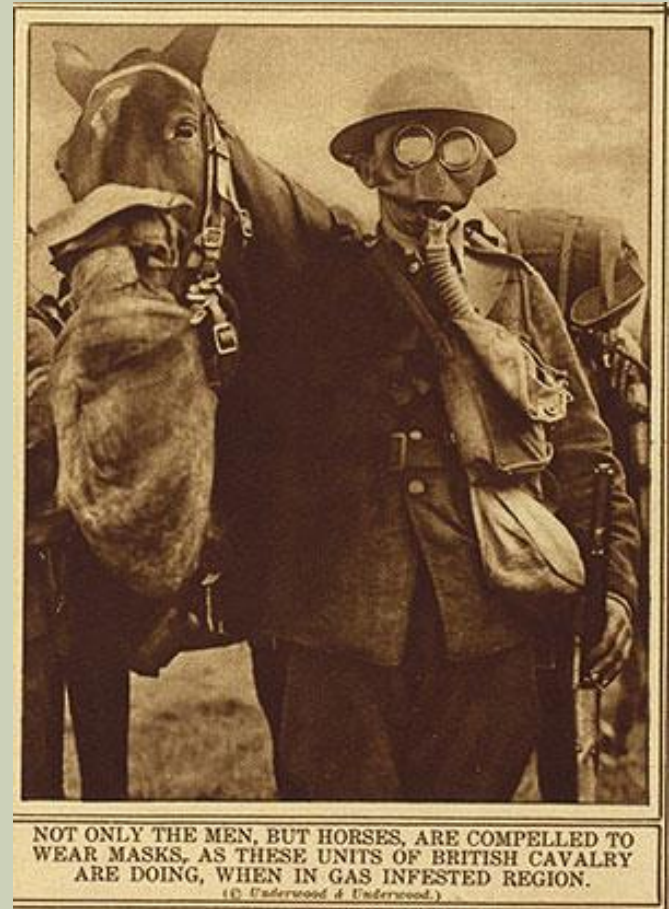
- Hundreds of thousands of African-American soldiers volunteered to serve in the American Expeditionary Force, in the hope that their service would result in greater respect and dignity at home. These soldiers were forced to serve in segregated units under white commanders, and in some cases, they served under French commanders. And yet, their bravery and valor in battle was rewarded. Many black soldiers found that they were treated much better in France than they ever were in the United States.



NEW STYLES OF WARFARE AND TECHNOLOGY, 1914 - 1918



NEW STYLES OF WARFARE AND TECHNOLOGY, 1914 - 1918





THE CONVOY SYSTEM

In order to make certain that American supply ships and transport vessels made it across the ocean to Europe, the convoy system was used. Destroyers used depth charges and other methods to target U-boats and rout them out of the water before damage could be done to American vessels.

THE RUSSIA REVOLUTION

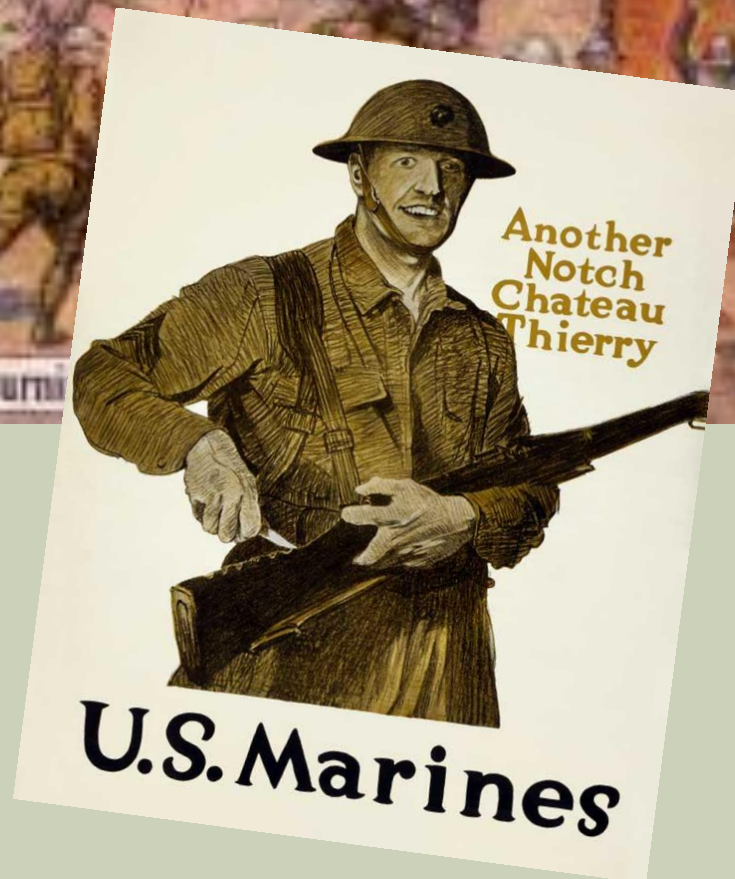
In 1917, Revolution struck twice in Russia. First, Tsar Nicholas II and his wife Alexandra were ousted from power and replaced by the popularly elected Duma and President Alexander Kerensky. Later, though, the Bolsheviks, a violent communist organization devoted to drastic political and economic changes took over the government.



TREATY OF BREST-LITOVSK

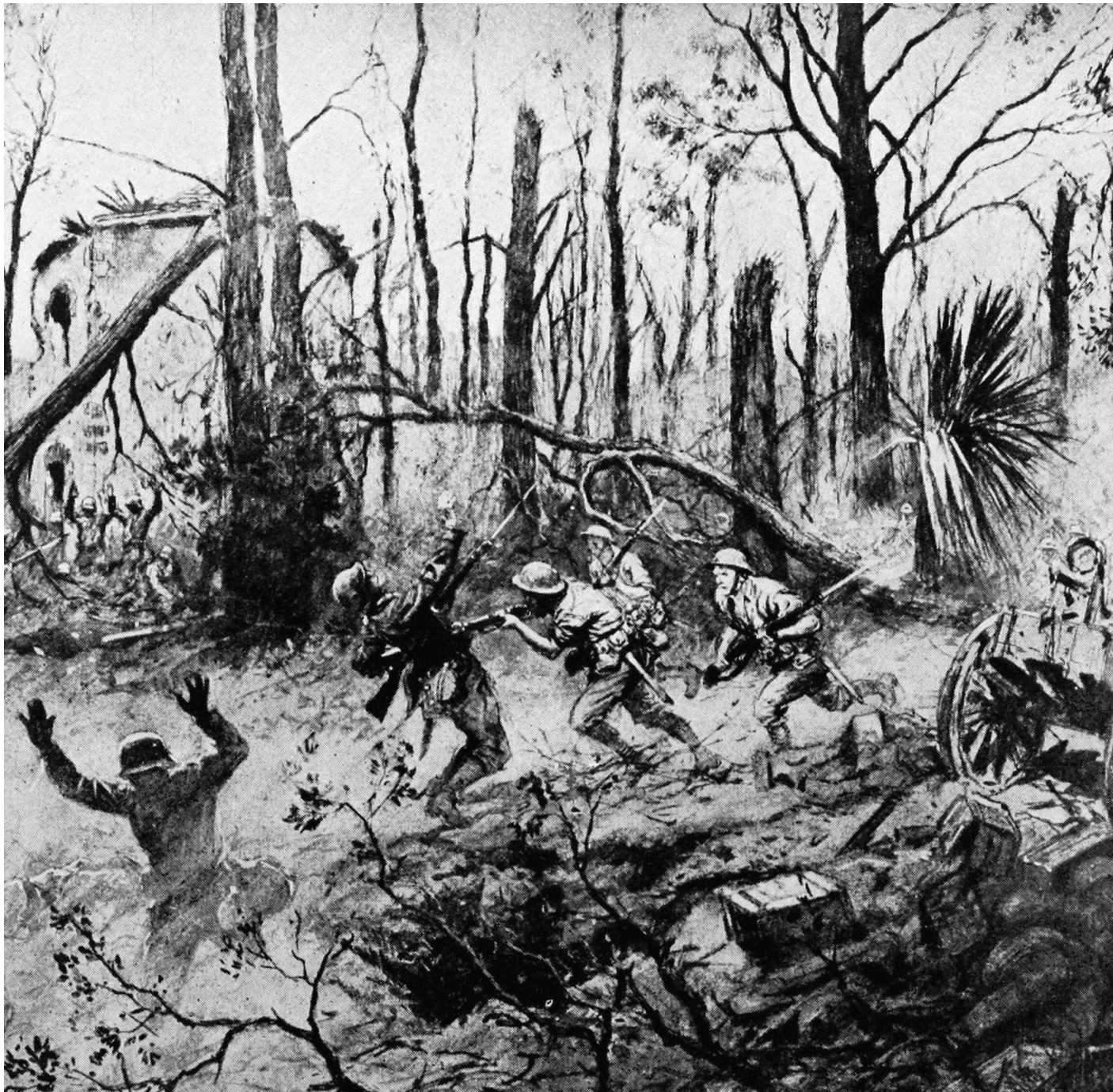
Immediately after Vladimir Lenin and the Bolsheviks took control of Russia promising “Bread, Land, and Peace” – they signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, gaining peace with Germany at a very high price. The treaty ceded hundreds of miles of land in the western parts of Russia to the Germans – temporarily...





THE BATTLE OF CHATEAU- THIERRY

One of the first major battles that Americans participated in during World War I was the Battle of Chateau-Thierry. In the battle, Americans fought against the Germans, and routed them out of the region – forcing a retreat towards Germany. American “doughboys” were proving their worth.



BELLEAU WOODS

At the Battle of Belleau Wood, Americans were able to force Germany to retreat once again. Frustrated by the endless supply of reinforcements and the unbroken supply lines of the Americans, the war weary German soldiers inched closer and closer to ultimate surrender. By November of 1918, the war was up.



THE ARGONNE FOREST

During the Meuse-Argonne offensive, American soldiers pressed the Germany Army into a full retreat. Overwhelmed by the fresh American troops, Germans beat a hasty retreat towards the Fatherland. American soldiers would be celebrated as heroes as the war came to a conclusion.

JOHN J. “BLACKJACK” PERSHING

- John Pershing was the leader of the American Expeditionary Force during World War I. American soldiers marched under his command – all but the African-American soldiers he had optioned off to French Commander Ferdinand Foch. The “doughboys” performed ably, forcing Germany to surrender within a year of arriving “Over There” in Europe.



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